LIBRARY
HEALTH
A5 - SEP 47
C.R. 38
LIBRARY

HELMSLEY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF HELMSLEY

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1946

Allenby & Son, Printers, Helmsley.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29420283

TO THE HELMSLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Combined District, for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of Helmsley Union	67,705 Acres
Resident Population in 1946	5,745
Dwellings structurally separate	1,198
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£74
Full Rateable Value	£18,700

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As an aftermath of the War we are still suffering from the Control of Food and Clothing. There is a continuance of the shortage of labour—male and female. Some of our farmers are assisted by Foreign soldiers to some extent, but even then farmers and others complain of lack of labour in carrying out their work. As before there is a dearth of female labour. Most of our own men have returned from the War ; but a certain proportion of them have not returned to their old jobs. No doubt we are still suffering from the serious depletion of labour which hampers agricultural work. Many of the farmers in large holdings now employ mechanical means on the farm, and this mitigates to some extent the restrictions placed upon the employment of farm labourers. However, work on the land is being carried out fairly satisfactorily.

I have noted the continuance of War weariness throughout the district. Although there is sufficient food to maintain the health of the population the severe restrictions upon food and clothing tends to foster an increased number of the population, especially children and persons of delicate constitution, suffering from the milder forms of epidemic disease. There is ample evidence to indicate a lower resistance to these ailments, and convalescence from all forms of illness is undoubtedly prolonged ; in the case of more serious disease on account of decreased vitality. And yet the Public Health continues to remain on the whole at a satisfactory level. I cannot find any lowering ,in this respect, of conditions since my last report.

Measles and Whooping Cough, as seen in former years, had considerably abated in incidence, and sporadic cases were of a mild type, and there were no fatalities.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female
Live Births—Total 86		
Legitimate	39	43
Illegitimate	2	2
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population 14.9.		
Still Births—None.		
Death of Infants under 1 year of age—		Total 4.
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	0	0
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births—		46.5
Deaths—All Causes— 69.		
Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population		12.1
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	3	6
do. from Measles	0	0
do. from Whooping Cough	0	0
do. from Diphtheria	0	1

SECTION B.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These remain as before. The Ambulances are sent promptly when called upon, to the great convenience and comfort of the public.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

All Home Nursing is now carried out by the District Nurses who do the work efficiently and well. Nursing is managed by a Committee under the presidency of Lady Marjorie Beckett, and is much appreciated throughout the district. The Nursing Association takes an active interest in the work. During 1946 the number of visits was 2,553. Visits :—

1447	General Nursing
196	Midwifery.
284	Maternity.
198	Ante-Natal.
428	Infant Health.
2553	Total Visits.

The Children's Welfare Centre meets once a month throughout the year. It is attended by the nurses and the local doctors. There is usually a good attendance of mothers and babies.

SECTION C.

Sanitation in the District is satisfactory. The Helmsley and Ampleforth Sewerage works are still held up. It is hoped to undertake the work when labour is available. No serious nuisance was found anywhere. Sewers and septic tanks are regularly inspected, and any fault found was put in order as soon as possible.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

New houses have been built and there is very little overcrowding. The Sanitary Officer gives details of Housing in his report.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk continues to be strictly rationed throughout the Area. Nursing Mothers, Expectant and Actual, are given sufficient to maintain health, and most schools get milk where a mid-day meal has not been provided. Children are brought to the schools when they live at a distance. Motor cars are employed, and during severe weather the children arrive at school dry and comfortable. This arrangement has greatly minimised the number of colds and catarrhal ailments, especially during the inclement periods of winter and early spring.

NUTRITION.

Food substitutes are used to supply the population, and give the necessary vitamins required to maintain health. The supply of vegetables has been much improved recently.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat continues to be rationed. The supply is barely sufficient in all cases. But there has been no lowering of the Public Health to any serious extent on that account.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply was usually sufficient for all purposes. Early in the year Helmsley water became contaminated, and the public was advised to boil all water until further notice was given by the Health Authority.

The Helmsley supply from Beckdale and Pyethorn was found to contain foreign matter of a diliterious nature. Steps were taken to have the water chlorinated, and the Harome supply was drawn from the Camp at Wombleton. This was not always of a satisfactory nature ; it contained a good deal of deposit on occasion. The measures employed are given in the supplement to this report given by the Sanitary Officer. Old Byland as usual had lapses of insufficient water. Means were taken to remedy defects—chiefly in the pumping arrangements—and water became more plentiful. All the water supplied in other parts of the Area remained good and of good quality for domestic purposes.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Total cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	2	0
Whooping Cough	26	0	0
Measles	11	0	0
Menningitis	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Pneumonia	9	0	1
Tuberculosis of Lungs and other Forms	5	4	4

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These were regularly inspected and no serious pollution discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the Area have been regularly inspected and only minor defects found. Sanitation in all cases was satisfactory. The closets and drains were kept in a satisfactory condition.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

None of the Schools were closed at my instance in spite of the severe weather in the early months of the year. The percentage of absence was relatively low and children remained free from sickness.

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1946.

	Male.	Female
Diphtheria	0	1
Tuberculosis of Lungs	0	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
Influenza	0	1
Cancer, Oesophagus and Uterus	0	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	0
Cancer in all other sites	1	3
Diabetes	0	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	3	3
Heart Disease	8	15
Other Diseases of Circulation	1	1
Pneumonia	1	0
Bronchitis	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1
Nephritis	2	1
Premature Births	2	1
Accident (Road Traffic)	1	0
Other Violent Causes	3	0
All other Causes	5	2
Total	31	38

WEATHER REPORT.

This has not been included in this Annual Report, as in former years. The reason for this is on account of the change of personnel.

CONCLUSION.

The Public Health in the Helmsley Rural District continued to remain at a satisfactory level during 1946. The control of Food and Clothing no doubt tends to affect the health of delicate persons, but the maintenance of the General Health gives no occasion for misgiving. The Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 civilian population was 19.1 ; for our Area it was 14.9. The Death rate for the rest of the County was 11.5 per thousand ; ours was 12.1 per thousand.

Again I have pleasure in expressing thanks to your Council and its Officers for their assistance and constant courtesy, and to my Medical Colleagues for their support and consideration on all occasions.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
ALEXANDER C. BLAIR, M.D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

Council Offices,
Helmsley, York.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Helmsley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department of your Council for the year ending the 31st December, 1946.

The total number of visits of inspection made during the year for all purposes were 3,897 and are summarised as follows :—

GENERAL SANITATION—	
Drainage	46
Complaints Investigated	59
Public Conveniences	49
Factories	5
Bakehouses	3
Rats and Mice	1367
Schools	7
PUBLIC CLEANSING—	
Refuse Collection	39
Refuse Disposal	40
Salvage	33
Miscellaneous	55
WATER SUPPLIES—	
Piethorne	266
Ampleforth	55
Helmsley	22
Gilling East	6
Cawton	19
Lousy Lane	4
Oswaldkirk	3
Newton East and Laysthorpe	3
Old Byland and Wass	8
Stonegrave and Nunnington	3
Sproxton	7
Complaints investigated re water supplies	22
SEWAGE WORKS—	
Helmsley	12
Oswaldkirk	4
Ampleforth	5
Gilling East	12
Harome	9
Pockley	10
Beadlam	10

HOUSING—	
No. of Houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	121
No. of visits necessary to above houses ...	213
No. of visits to Council Houses	237
No. of visits to Squatters	29
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—	
Visits re Disinfection	8
Enquiries re above	11
MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION—	
Visits to Slaughterhouses	6
Visits to Cowsheds	19
Visits to Butchers Shops	62
Visits to Grocers	32
Visits to N.A.A.F.I.'s	6
Meat Refresher Courses attended	4
CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL—	
Visits re application for licenses	101
BUILDING BYELAWS—	
No. of visits re building work in progress...	53
PETROL PUMPS—	
No. of Visits	6
Total	3897

HOUSING.

RURAL SURVEY.

With the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector during the year it was possible to commence with the survey of houses in the Rural Area as recommended by the Rural Housing Advisory Committee. This work is being carried out as quickly as possible in an effort to recover ground lost during previous years.

The work so far carried out has brought to light the great need in the area of the necessity of improved housing conditions, water supplies, drainage and conversion of privies to the water carriage system. These amenities are in general demand by the people and are their due.

During the year 121 houses were inspected in the parishes of Hawnby, Snilesworth and Rievaulx necessitating 213 visits

A detailed survey of each house was made and a plan prepared The houses were placed in the following categories :—

1. Satisfactory in all respects	2
2. Minor defects	15
3. Repairs or structural defects	69
4. Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts ...	13
5. Unfit	22
	121

The final result of this survey might well have a far reaching effect on the Council's Permanent Housing Programme as it is certain that additional houses will have to be provided when action is taken on the information obtained thereby. This is a vital duty of the Council and its importance cannot be stressed too much as the good housing of the people is one of the essentials of family life and is a great contribution to the contentment and happiness of the people.

Whilst dealing with the question of Housing, mention must be made of the amount of work being held up by Building Restrictions and the shortage of materials and also of the great need for the restoration of the Housing Rural Workers Acts or similar legislation, empowering the granting of monetary aid to owners reconditioning property for human habitation in Rural Areas. Much splendid work was done in this Rural District when these powers existed.

COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The Council decided during the year not to provide any Temporary Houses of the Prefabricated type but to proceed with the construction of the permanent Traditional Type of dwelling house and have at present two sites under construction. Thirteen brick three-bedroom type houses and four two-bedroom type houses are in course of erection on the Ashdale Road, Helmsley site and six Stone built three-bedroom type are in course of erection on the Sproxton site. At the end of the year three of the houses at Sproxton and three on the Ashdale Road site were nearing completion.

During the same period 9 brick built houses were in the course of erection by private enterprise and at the end of the year two were completed and ready for occupation.

In addition contracts have been signed for the construction of further houses as follows :—

Township.	**No.**
Ampleforth	3
Beadlam	4

At the present time there are 103 Council Houses in the area for which my Department is responsible for the work of repairs and maintenance. The following table shows the position of these houses in :—

Parish.	**No.**
Helmsley	56
Harome	10
Beadlam	8
Pockley	2
Old Byland	2
Ampleforth	22
Coulton	3
Total—	103

During the year the following defects to Council Houses were remedied :—

Roof repaired	3
Floors repaired	3
Ceilings repaired	1
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	1
Windows repaired	1
Defective eaves, gutters and down spouts repaired ...	1
Doors repaired	8
Yards repaired or renewed	4
Houses treated for Dry Rot	3
Coppers renewed	2
Coppers repaired	3
Clothes posts renewed	1
Houses treated for dampness	2
Lavatory basins provided	5
Repairs to Hot Water Systems	1
W.C. provided	4
Water services repaired	27
New Boilers provided	6
Electrical repairs	4
Plaster renewed	4
Ranges repaired or renewed	36

The work of the external redecoration of these Council Houses was completed during the year. The work was carried out by direct labour, a painter was employed in the Department and all materials and tools were provided by the Council. Excellent results were obtained at a very economical figure. The Council Offices were also treated on similar lines.

During the year the Council House at Cawton was totally destroyed by fire and is now in the course of reconstruction under my supervision at a cost agreed with the Insurance Company. As the house is occupied by a large family, the opportunity was taken to enlarge the living room accommodation by the removal of the bathroom from the ground floor to the first floor which will result in much improved living space for the tenants. Meanwhile, the tenant and his family are temporarily housed in a Nissen Hut on the R.A.F. Searchlight Site at Gilling East.

With the exception of the township of Helmsley all Council Houses are at present drained into septic tanks necessitating a great deal of work in cleansing which has been further aggravated during the year due to the very acute shortage of suitable labour for this class of work.

Much work in connection with the repair and renewal of fences and footpaths to these properties remains to be undertaken when labour and materials are in greater supply and the Building Restrictions are removed.

Difficulty has been experienced during the year in securing the prompt execution of repairs to these houses and I am glad to note the Council are considering the appointment of a suitable workman capable of carrying out such repairs. This would result in prompt attention to work of repair and remove the great body of complaints from the tenants of the Council Houses which have to be dealt with by this Department.

SQUATTERS.

During the year the Military Camp at Ampleforth was occupied by Squatters and was handed over by the Military Authorities to the Ministry of Health for housing purposes to be administered by the Council.

At the end of the year seven families were in occupation and Nissen Huts in different areas of the camp were occupied. In all cases essential services such as, water, electricity, cooking facilities and sanitation were provided as a temporary measure.

A scheme for the adaption of a number of these huts sited together has been prepared and provides for eight family units of accommodation. When carried out it is proposed to re-house the squatters as better living facilities will be provided in the adapted huts.

The scheme provides for the provision of drainage and water supply, the provision of galley stoves, the erection of brick partitions for bedrooms, the provision of chemical closets, separate foodstore and the sealing of the ends of the huts with felt. A supply of electricity will also be laid on and sinks are to be fixed.

This scheme when in operation will provide fairly decent living accommodation of a temporary nature for several families desparately in need of shelter and I am watching with interest this experiment in housing.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 348 Wholesale Producers of Milk and Registered Cowkeepers and 35 Retail Purveyors of Milk in the area. Several new producers were registered during the year.

A large proportion of the milk produced in the area is collected daily and transported by road to a centre for distribution by the Milk Marketing Board.

Visits of inspection regarding general cleanliness, etc., were made to 19 cowsheds and dairies in the district during the year and works of reconstruction have been carried out to several cowsheds in the area.

There is still a large volume of work remaining to be undertaken in connection with the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order when the Housing survey is completed.

There are no producers of Graded Milk under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, in the area.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since the adoption of the Meat Distribution Scheme by the Ministry of Food and the system of Central Slaughtering, no livestock is slaughtered for human consumption in this area.

The whole of the meat supplied to the butchers in the area is drawn from the Distributing Centre at Easingwold and the quality of the meat supplied during the year has been found to be satisfactory.

Regular visits are made to all butchers establishments in the district and general supervision is maintained. Excellent conditions were found to prevail in all cases.

During the year the following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

H.K. Beef	321 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	8 lbs.
Cheese	13 lbs.
Flour	24 lbs.
Rolled Oats	32 lbs.
Margarine	13½ lbs.
Oranges	27 lbs.
Cauliflowers	16 lbs.
Cocoa	7 lbs.
Butter	¼ lbs.
Dried Egg Powder	¾ lbs.
Mustard	1 lb.
Baked Beans	3 lbs.
Tinned Milk	30 lbs.

WATER SUPPLY.

Details of water supplies in the Rural District of Helmsley are as appended below :—

Name of Supply.	Owner	District Served
Piethorne ...	Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee.	Harome, Beadlam, Nawton, Wombleton, Pockey, Skiplam, Cold Harbour and Nawton Towers.
Nunnington and Laysthorpe ...	do.	Nunnington, Laysthorpe and Stonegrave.
Helmsley Town ...	Duncombe Park Estate	Helmsley Town.
Rievaulx ...	Duncombe Park Estate	Rievaulx.
Carlton ...	Duncombe Park Estate	Carlton.
Sproxton ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Sproxton.
Ampleforth ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Ampleforth.
Byland with Wass ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Wass.
Old Byland ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Old Byland.
Hawnby ...	Mexborough Estate.	Hawnby.
Oswaldkirk ...	W. P. Crundall	Oswaldkirk.
Cawton ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Cawton.
Gilling East ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Gilling East.
Coulton ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Coulton.
Scawton and Cold Kirby ...	Helmsley R. D. C.	Scawton, Cold Kirby and Hambleton.

The following table shows the method of supply to parishes :—

Parish.	Nature of Supply.
Nawton, Beadlam, Hambleton Pockey and Harome.	Springs with gravitation by Cast Iron Mains.
Old Byland.	Hydraulic Rams.
Oswaldkirk	Artesian Well.
Laysthorpe and Nunnington. ...	Springs and gravitation.
Helmsley Town	Springs and gravitation.
Rievaulx	Springs and gravitation.
Carlton	Springs and gravitation.
Sproxton	Hydraulic Rams.
Ampleforth	Springs and gravitation.
Byland with Wass	Springs and gravitation.
Hawnby	Springs and gravitation.
Cawton	Hydraulic Rams.
Gilling East	Springs and gravitation.
Coulton	Hydraulic Rams.
Scawton and Cold Kirby	Hydraulic Rams.

A very high proportion of the population of this area is served with water by piped supplies.

During the year 418 visits were made to water supplies in the area and much work has been carried out in an effort to maintain regular supplies and improve schemes, especially in the case of the Piethorne Supply which is administered by a Joint Committee of the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Rural District Councils and under my supervision.

Recording meters were fitted to the various branches and P.o.W. labour was employed on excavation work and a thorough examination of the system was carried out with most gratifying results. Several serious leaks were traced and repaired resulting in a saving of some 36,000 gallons of water per day, which had been escaping through fractures in the mains into fissures in the rock.

It was impossible to maintain a regular supply to the high level consumers on this scheme and therefore permission to take a supply from the R.A.F. Station at Wombleton was obtained from the Air Ministry and a new 3" main was laid from the R.A.F. Station to Harome. This action enabled Harome to be cut off from the Piethorne Scheme and resulted in a further saving which together with the highly satisfactory work carried out on the other mains resulted in a regular supply being made available to all consumers on the system. This was ensured and has continued satisfactory throughout the year. The main reservoir at Cold Harbour was also at long last filled and was overflowing and has continued to maintain a very high water level. This happy state of affairs has not existed for a number of years and well repays the work carried out on the scheme.

During the year samples of the supply were taken and forwarded for analysis and adverse reports were received. Steps were at once taken to install the Hypochlorinator held in stock and the supply was chlorinated without delay. The machine was manufactured and supplied by Messrs. Wallace & Tiernan and has been maintained and has operated satisfactorily during the year.

Difficulty has been experienced during the year with the R.A.F. supply now feeding the township of Harome due to a considerable amount of discolouration. The supply was analysed and proved satisfactory and the discolouration is no doubt due to the very high iron content of the water. Efforts are being made to overcome the difficulty by thorougly cleansing the storage tanks and regularly flushing out the mains. It is my hope that when final tests have been carried out on the Piethorne Scheme that it will be possible to supply Harome once again from this scheme.

As a further precaution against the contamination of the gathering grounds of the supply, a scheme for the enclosure of a larger area of land is being prepared, and is shortly to be put into operation.

Difficulties in maintaining regular supplies were also experienced at Cawton, Sproxton, Leysthorpe and Gilling East.

In most areas it has been found the supplies are rather short due in the main to the greatly increased demands during recent years for water.

The increasing number of conversions to the water carriage system and the demands of agriculture for supplies of pure water all tend to make demand greater than supply, and prove that whilst existing supplies were sufficient when first provided they are now insufficient and stand in need of considerable augmentation.

At Ampleforth the chief inconvenience has been experienced by the College, when during a drought the supply is very meger indeed. A scheme to remedy this difficulty is being prepared and will be put in hand as soon as possible.

At Cawton the demand exceeds the supply and from time to time the village is without a supply.

At Sproxton and Gilling East a similar state of affairs exist and steps will have to be taken to augment these supplies if all consumers are to enjoy a regular and plentiful supply of pure water.

The rest of the schemes administered by this Department under the direction of the Council have given satisfaction except for minor adjustments which had to be made to hydraulic rams from time to time.

Samples of the privately owned Helmsley Towns supply were also submitted for analysis and unsatisfactory reports were received. As the Council are negotiating with the owners with a view to purchase joint action was taken to ensure the chlorination of the supply. There it is intended to fit Wallace & Tierman constant flow hypochlorinators in order to chlorinate and also detaste. Work in this direction is proceeding at the present time and I hope to have the plant operating at an early date.

Copies of the analysts reports on samples submitted for analysis during the year are as follows.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Chemical.

No.	Date.	Address.	Summary of Report.
M/41598	16.7.46	Stand pipe Beadlam.	The present condition of this water is satisfactory for drinking purposes.
M/41599	16.7.46	Service tap, Church Street, Helmsley.	The present condition of this water is satisfactory for drinking purposes.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Bacteriological.

No.	Date.	Address.	Summary of Report.
1.	15.7.46.	Tap in House, Church Street, Helmsley.	This water shews evidence of pollution and cannot be regarded as safe for drinking.
2.	15.7.46.	Stand Tap at Beadlam	Polluted and unsafe for domestic use.
6227.	24.7.46.	Tap in kitchen, No. 4, Pottergate, Helmsley.	There is some contamination with coliform organisms, the majority of which appear to belong to intermeriate aerogenes-cloacae or to irregular types. The remainder are Bact. coli (Type 1). The number of coliform bacikku and presence of faecal organisms renders the water suspect from a becteriological point of view on this examination.
6228.	24.7.46.	Intake of pumping well at Army pump houses, Helmsley.	The suitability of the water for human consumption must be regarded suspicious from a bacteriological point of view on this examination
6229.	24.7.46.	No. 2, Council House, Beadlam.	The water supply is unsatisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
6230.	24.7.46.	Spring collecting chamber, Piethorne supply.	There is no evidence of contamination with coliform organisms and the water supply may be regarded as highly satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination

No.	Date.	Address.	Summary of Report.
6235.	26.7.46.	Spring inlet No. 2. to collecting tank, Piethorne system.	The suitability of this water supply for human consumption must be regarded with some suspicion on this examination from a bacteriological point of view.
6236.	26.7.46.	Piethorne No. 3. spring collecting chamber—all springs included.	(As for 6230).
7051.	26.8.46.	Tap in yard, Ashtree House, Nawton Lane.	There is gross contamination with faecal organisms. The water is unsatisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
7052.	26.8.46.	Tap in Council Offices, Helmsley.	This water must be regarded as suspect. It would be advisable to repeat the examination in the near future.
7053.	26.8.46.	Tap in yard, Nawton Lane.	There is a high degree of contamination with faecal organisms. The water is considered unsatisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
7735.	17.9.46.	Tap over sink in still room, Duncombe Park Helmsley.	The presumptive coliform count is rather too high for a satisfactory water supply from a bacteriological point of view on this examination.
9449	4.11.46	R.A.F. Station, Wombleton.	Chlorination does not appear to be satisfactory on this examination, but there appears to be no bacteriological reason for the discolouration.

In connection with the maintenance of the supplies in this area, three water bailiffs are employed and are under my direction. One on ram supplies and two on the other schemes.

Difficulty is often experienced in the prompt attention to complaints and repairs to defects due to the lack of transport for conveying men and materials to various parts of the district. This question has been considered by the Council, and I am happy to learn that an order for a 10 h.p. Austin Van has been placed. There is, however, considerable delay in obtaining delivery of the vehicle due to the abnormal times through which we are passing nationally, though one might have thought that so urgent a public service would have received some priority.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is undertaken in all parishes in the area on a fortnightly basis, and is carried out by direct labour. One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam and a staff of three men are engaged on this work. There again difficulty in maintaining a regular service has been experienced from time to time due to breakdowns in connection with the vehicle and as no vehicle is kept as a stand by, interruptions in the service have occurred.

The method of disposal employed is controlled Tipping, and a central tip at Helmsley is used chiefly. Tips at Gilling East and Ampleforth are occasionally used.

The tip at Helmsley is not very suitable for the disposal of refuse for several reasons and is not in a sanitary condition. In the first place it is situated too near the town, is infested with vermin and forms an ideal breeding ground for flies. Also the smell of burning refuse is often objected to by residents of the town on account of the tip having been on fire for many years. There is also grave danger to the Council workmen when visiting the tip for tipping purposes. I am of the opinion that the Council might well consider the advisability of selecting an alternative site for the tipping of house refuse, which would enable better control of the method employed to be exercised. The shortage of suitable material for sealing purposes is a very great inconvenience to the proper management of the tip and is the chief cause of the infestation.

Efforts have been made from time to time during the year to overcome both the fly and rodent infestations and a measure of success was obtained.

During the year approximately 2,000 tons of refuse were dealt with in the area. This work increases from year to year as new houses are erected and it is certain that this service will soon keep the staff fully employed without time to spare for other duties.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the sewage disposal works detailed below were maintained and operated in a fairly satisfactory manner :—

Parish of Works.	**Area Served.**
Helmsley.	Helmsley Town.
Oswaldkirk.	Oswaldkirk Village.

The remaining parishes in the area are not provided with proper sewage disposal works, and a great number of the houses in these parishes employ small private schemes for sewage disposal. Usually septic tanks and filters, or land irrigation are resorted to.

A considerable amount of work must be undertaken by the Council in this direction as the need for proper sewage disposal systems is most urgent and a formidable amount of work in connection with the conversion of properties to the water carriage system is being held up through the lack of these facilities.

At Beadlam, Pockley, Harome, Ampleforth, Gilling East, Cawton, Old Byland, Coulton, Cold Kirby, Scawton and Stonegrave this question is serious. At Harome, Beadlam and Ampleforth numerous complaints are received throughout the year regarding the insanitary condition of the open ditches at present receiving the untreated sewage, and every effort is made by my staff to maintain these ditches in something like a hygenic condition.

The Helmsley Works are also in need of modernisation if the sewage is to be properly treated before being discharged into the River Rye as they are not capable of dealing adequately with the present flow which is increased each year by the addition of new houses.

The parishes of Beadlam, Wombleton, Nawton and Harome are at present served by a partly open ditch, and the responsibility is carried by the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside R.D.C.'s Joint Committee. There again there is dire need for immediate action for the provision of a proper sewage disposal scheme which could be so prepared as to serve all 4 parishes.

Much work is carried out by the Department during the year in the cleansing of the septic tanks, etc., which serve the Council Housing Estates at Harome, Pockley, Old Byland, Ampleforth and Coulton and other villages in the area, and a survey is given below.

Septic Tanks cleansed	6
Choked Drains cleared	23
Choked Sewers cleansed	2
Sludge Beds cleansed	2
Open Sewers cleansed	13

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Boro Beck, Helmsley and the Beck running through Gilling East were cleansed during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 28 Privies were converted to the water carriage system in the following parishes :—

Parish.	No.
Harome	5
Helmsley	3
Sproxton	1
Ampleforth	11
Oswaldkirk	2
Gilling East	1
Coulton	2
Hawnby	2
Rievaulx	1

SALVAGE.

The recovery of salvage for raw material for industry has declined during the year due chiefly to the apathy of the public who do not save their waste for collection by the Council's workmen now that the emergency of war is over.

The work has, however, proceeded throughout the year, and with publicity and regular collections a certain measure of success has been achieved.

Collections were made throughout the area once each month and at Helmsley a house to house collection is made each fortnight. In other outlying parishes collections are only made when removing house refuse. The fall in the amount of salvage now made available by householders renders it impracticable to make special journeys for salvage, and is by no means an economical proposition.

I might take this opportunity of stressing the vital importance of salvage, especially in view of the serious economical position of the country at the present time and therefore appeal to all to do their utmost to increase the amount of salvage by saving their waste and restoring their interest in this great work of national importance.

During the year the Salvage collected and sold was as follows :

Material.	Weight.		
	tons	cwts.	Qrs.
Waste Paper and Cardboard	13	2	3
Rags		6	1

From the table it will be seen that a total revenue of £109 was derived from the sale of salved material.

During the year rechargeable work to the value of £51 18s. 6d. was also carried out by the Department.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There are only one set of Public Conveniences in the district situated in the town of Helmsley, and here the accommodation is so limited that they do not cope with the seasonable bus traffic from other areas en route for the seaside.

The position during these times is such that additional accommodation is called for and the Council should give careful consideration to the matter.

SHOPS.

No action has been taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken regarding the abatement of nuisances from smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the area, owned by Ampleforth College Trustees, but no public baths or swimming pools exist.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

During the year the Council appointed a whole time Rodent Operator to the Department and a start was made to deal with this problem. A complete survey of the area was carried out, involving 1353 visits to properties in the 28 parishes of the district.

The following is a summary of the position :—

Parish.	**Infestations.**			
	Private		Agriculture	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Ampleforth	1	1	5	5
Beadlam	-	-	2	3
Bilsdale	1	-	-	2
Byland with Wass	-	-	1	1
Carlton	-	3	-	2
Cawton	1	-	2	4
Coulton	-	-	-	1
Cold Kirby	-	-	3	3
Gilling East	-	2	1	4
Grimstone	1	-	-	2
Harome	-	1	6	13
Hawnby	-	1	1	1
Helmsley	1	1	2	12
Laskill Pasture	1	-	1	-
Old Byland	-	-	1	1
Oldstead	-	-	1	-
Oswaldkirk	-	-	2	2
Pockley	1	-	3	2
Rievaulx	1	-	1	4
Scawton	-	-	2	-
Snilesworth	2	-	4	-
Sproxton	-	-	3	-
Stonegrave	-	-	2	2

HOUSING AND BUILDING PLANS.

53 visits were made to new building works in the area in connection with the administration of the Building Bye-laws in force in the Rural District and visits of inspection were also made to proposed new Council Housing sites in the area.

The following plans for new buildings were inspected and approved by the Council during the year :—

Helmsley	28
Hawnby	2
Sproxton	10
Stonegrave	2
Rievaulx	5
Harome	2
Ampleforth	12
Oswaldkirk	1
Gilling East	3
	65

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

The administration of the Regulations governing the Control of Civil Building in the area has involved a great deal of time during the year.

101 visits to investigate applications for Building Licences were made and visits of inspection were carried out during building operations.

During the year the following Building Licences were issued for work in this area :—

Authority.	**No.**
Helmsley R.D.C.	126
Ministry of Works	13

W.B.A. Priority Certificates were issued in 12 instances.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Council for the splendid support and happy relations which I have enjoyed throughout the year. The most careful and sympathetic consideration has always been given to matters affecting the administration of my Department for which I am most grateful.

I should also like to record the excellent co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. T. Blair and the Clerk to the Council, Mr. H. L. Bates, extended to me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. STONEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.